



## Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding



### Oman

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

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### OBJECTIVE I. REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

#### 1.1 Introduction to marine turtle populations and habitats, challenges and conservation efforts. [INF]

There are five sea turtle species in Oman: Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Olive ridley and Leatherback. All nest in Oman except the Leatherback which only feeds in Omani waters. Green turtles mainly nest in Ras al Hadd, with other small nesting areas in the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea beaches of Oman. Nesting season is from June to October. The population of this species is about 20,000 nesting females. Loggerhead turtles mainly nest on Masirah Island, as well as other scattered nesting beaches. Their population is around 30,000 nesting females. Nesting season is from June to October. Hawksbill turtles nest on Masirah and Demaniat Islands. Their population numbers around 600 nesting females. Nesting season is from February to March. Olive ridleys nest on Masirah Island, with a population of around 150-400 nesting females. Nesting season is from February to March. Leatherbacks are occasionally trapped in fishermen nets.

Turtles -- especially the meat and eggs of Green turtles -- are eaten by people of some regions of Oman.

**1.2.1 Describe any protocol or approaches practiced in your country, which you consider exemplary, for minimising threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats, which may be suitable for adaptation and adoption elsewhere. [BPR]**

We may suggest:

- Ranger patrolling in protected areas and use of rangers to guide visitors and conduct basic monitoring.
- Regional protection of sea turtles which are known to migrate to other countries beaches or coast.

**1.3.1 Describe any socio-economic studies or activities that have been conducted among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats. [BPR, INF]**

**1.3.2 Which of these adverse economic incentives are underlying threats to marine turtles in your country? [TSH]**

- High prices earned from turtle products relative to other commodities
- Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle products
- Ease of access to the turtle resource (eg. by virtue of proximity or ease of land/water access)**
- Low cost of land near nesting beaches
- Low penalties against illegal harvesting
- Other1:
- Other2:
- Other3:
- None of the above or Not Applicable

**1.3.3 Has your country has taken any measures to try to correct these adverse economic incentives? [BPR]**

- YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

Ranger units have been established to increase protection.

**1.4.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country, as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate, that could possibly interact with marine turtles. [INF]**

**a) Shrimp trawls:**  YES  NO

There is no shrimp trawling in Omani waters.

**b) Set gill nets:**  YES  NO

A lot of drifted gill net are used by fishermen and trawling nets are used by companies as well as set gill nets are used by local fishermen.

**c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs):**  YES  NO

this method of fishing is now used in certain place in Omani water but in small scale.

**d) Purse seine (with or without FADs):**  YES  NO

yes, used by local fishermen close to the beach with no effect reported on sea turtles in Oman.

e) *Longline (shallow or deepset)*:  YES  NO

Used by some companies' vessels and fishermen especially for tuna and shark fishing.

f) *Driftnet*:  YES  NO

Common method in Oman Used by local fishermen.

g) *Other1*:

Traps are used by local fishermen, and could affect the feeding area of turtles.

h) *Other2*:

None of the above

1.4.2 Please indicate the relative level of **fishing effort** and **perceived impact** of each of the above fisheries on marine turtles (e.g. in terms of by-catch). [TSH]

a) *Shrimp trawls*

**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source: Shrimp trawls are not used in Omani waters.

b) *Set gill nets*

**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source: Set gill nets have been used in certain fishing areas, this method also effecting feeding areas of turtles.

c) *Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)*

**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source: Not common method of fishing in Oman.

d) *Purse seine (with or without FADs)*

**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  **NONE**  UNKNOWN

Source: used on only small scale, without any direct effect to turtles.

***e) Longline (shallow or deepset)*****Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  **RELATIVELY LOW**  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  **UNKNOWN**

Source:

***f) Driftnet*****Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  **MODERATE**  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  **MODERATE**  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source: Occasionally affect turtles that get trapped in these nets.

***g) Other1 (from 1.4.1):*****Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  **MODERATE**  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  **MODERATE**  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source: Trawling, set gill net and drift gill nets could affect the turtles life occasionally in Omani waters.No data available.

***h) Other2 (from 1.4.1):*****Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source:

**1.4.3 Describe any **illegal fishing** that is known to occur in or around the waters of your country that may impact marine turtles. Describe the measures being taken to deal with this problem and any difficulties encountered in this regard. [TSH]**

Trawling and drift gill nets (illegal poaching of green turtles on small scale) have affected the population of sea turtles.

**1.4.4 Which of the following methods are used by your country to minimise incidental capture/mortality of marine turtles in fishing activities? [IND]**

a) **Appropriate handling** of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

Fishermen release live turtles if they are caught in their nets or lines.

b) **Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles** (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness)

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

No devices have been introduced as there is no shrimp trawling in Oman waters.

c) **Measures to avoid encirclement** of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

not a common fishing practice.

d) **Appropriate combinations** of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

e) **Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices** (FADs)

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

f) **Net retention and recycling schemes**

YES  NO  **NOT APPLICABLE**

g) **Spatial and temporal control of fishing** (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)

**YES**  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Spatial and temporal controls are in effect to protect certain species of fish or crustaceans. (They are not specific to sea turtles, but there could be ancillary benefits for turtles.)

h) **Effort management control**

**YES**  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

There are two protected areas for protecting turtles beaches which are turtle reserve at Ras al Hadd and Demaniyat Islands' beaches. Rangers units are covering most of Oman's terrestrial and coastal areas.

Other (list and explain):

None of the above

**1.4.5 Which of the following programmes has your country developed - in consultation with the fishing industry and fisheries management organisations - to promote implementation of measures to minimise incidental capture and mortality of turtles in national waters and in the high seas? [IND]**

**Onboard observer programmes**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

**Vessel monitoring systems**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

There are one or two staff from Ministry of Fisheries Wealth for monitoring the companies' vessels when they are operating in Arabian Sea.

**Inspections** (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Vessels monitoring staff at sea.

**Training programmes / workshops** to educate fishers

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

**Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines** etc.

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

By Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs.

**Other (list and explain):**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

None of the above

**1.4.6 Are the mitigation measures described in 1.4.4 and 1.4.5, periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? [SAP]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

**1.4.7 In your country, what types of data collection, research and development have been undertaken to support the reduction of marine turtle incidental catch (while taking into consideration the impact of various mitigation measures on other species)? [SAP]**

Data is collected and analyzed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and other related Ministries and research organizations such as Sultan Qaboos University and other research centres. The data collected includes flipper tagging data, satellite tracking, ..etc.

**1.4.8 Has your country exchanged information and provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States to promote the activities described in 1.4.4, 1.4.5 and 1.4.7 above? [SAP]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

Exchange of information and experts with other countries and organizations has been done during meetings and conferences.

**1.4.9 What legislative and practical measures has your country taken in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets? [SAP]**

In process

**1.5.1 Does your country have legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products; and to protect important turtle habitats? [IND]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

It is stated clearly on the royal decree NO. 6/2003 AND IN THE MINISTERIAL DECISION Nno.(110/2007) that Harvesting of turtles and their eggs are illegal .

**1.5.2 Which, among the following list, are economic uses and cultural values of marine turtles in your country? Please rate the relative prevalence / importance of each consumptive or non-consumptive use. [INF]**

**USES /  
VALUES**

**RELATIVE PREVALENCE /  
IMPORTANCE**

**Meat consumption**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Egg consumption**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Shell products**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Fat consumption**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Traditional medicine**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Eco-tourism programmes**

YES  NO

HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

**Cultural / traditional significance**

YES  NO HIGH  MODERATE  LOW  UNKNOWN

Other

1.5.3 Please indicate the relative level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs. [\[IND, TSH\]](#)

Level of harvest:

 RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Impact of harvest:

 RELATIVELY HIGH  MODERATE  RELATIVELY LOW  NONE  UNKNOWN

Source of information:

The coastal people in some beaches consume turtles' meat and their eggs.

1.5.4 Have any [domestic](#) management programmes been established to limit the levels of intentional harvest? [\[SAP\]](#)

 YES  NO  UNKNOWN

1.5.5 Describe any management agreements negotiated [between your country and other States](#) in relation to sustainable levels of traditional harvest, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts. [\[BPR\]](#)

None

1.6.1 First, select one of the options at left to indicate whether or not your country has any of the following measures in place to minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and nesting females. If yes, then estimate the relative effectiveness of these measures. [\[IND, SAP\]](#)

**MEASURES****RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS**

Monitoring/protection programmes

 YES  NO  N/A EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

Education/awareness programmes

 YES  NO  N/A EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

Egg relocation/hatcheries

 YES  NO  N/A EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

Predator control

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

#### Vehicle / access restrictions

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

It is prohibited for vehicles to drive through nesting areas.

#### Removal of debris / clean-up

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

But it does not cover all nesting and feeding areas.

#### Re-vegetation of frontal dunes

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

#### Building location/design regulations

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

EIA is required by law for all projects.

#### Light pollution reduction

YES  NO  N/A

EXCELLENT  GOOD  LOW  UNKNOWN

Control of light pollution is taken into consideration.

#### Other (list and rate them)

YES  NO  N/A

#### 1.6.2 Has your country undertaken any evaluation of its nest and beach management programmes?

[SAP]

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

By the researcher and managers of the turtle nesting beaches and MECA gas management plan for the two protected areas where turtles are nesting.

## OBJECTIVE II. PROTECT, CONSERVE AND REHABILITATE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

2.1.1 What is being done to protect critical habitats *outside* of established protected areas? (NB: It is assumed that legislation relating to established protected areas will have been described in Section 1.5.1) [BPR, SAP]

The main nesting beaches such as Ras al hadd and Demanyat Islands have certain roles and programmes of protection while Masirah Island needs more conservation actions. There are no incentives.

**2.1.2 Are assessments routinely made of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development on marine turtles and their habitats? [IND, SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

It is usually done by academic institutions, both national and international.

**2.1.3 Is marine water quality (including marine debris) monitored near turtle habitats? If yes, describe the nature of this monitoring and any remedial measures that may have been taken. [SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Throughout the country, water quality is monitored in two phases each year by the national marine pollution monitoring program.

**2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives? [SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

The measures that are used are according to Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In addition, there is a national monitoring program.

**2.2.1 Are efforts being made to recover degraded coral reefs? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc). [IND, SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded coral reefs)

At a very limited scale. preliminary assesment of population estimateme of nesting chelonia mydas at Ras AL Hadd Nature reserve in here undertaken by DGNC-MECA.

**2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.) [IND, SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE (no mangrove habitats important for turtles)

There are mangrove conservation, restoration and management programs to establish mangroves. This includes plantation projects , started since 2001 up to the present. About 42,000 seedlings has been transplanted in has been transplanted in the region.

**2.2.3 Are efforts being made to recover degraded sea grass habitats? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.). [IND, SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded sea grass habitats)

### **OBJECTIVE III. IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE TURTLE ECOLOGY AND POPULATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**3.1.1 Give a list of available literature that includes baseline information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats. [INF]**

**REFERENCES ON OR RELATED TO SEA TURTLES IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

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Sheppard, C., Price, A. and Robertes, C. 1992. Marine ecology of the Arabian region - patterns and processes in extreme tropical environments. Academic Press. Cambridge, UK. 359 pp.

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Weidleplan. 1992. Study for wildlife and conservation areas - master plan for the coastal areas of the Barr Al Hikman and Masirah Island. Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment. Muscat, Oman. 85 pp. + appendices

**3.1.2 Have long-term monitoring programmes (i.e. of at least 10 years duration) been initiated or planned for priority marine turtle populations frequenting the territory of your country? [IND, BPR]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

In Ras Al Hadd monitoring started in 1977. At Masirah Island monitoring started in 1977; while in Dimanyat and Hallniyat Islands it started in 1999 and 2000, respectively. The data collected include the measurements of turtle tracks, mortality and migration, etc.

**3.1.3 Has the genetic identity of marine turtle populations in your country been characterised? [INF, PRI]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

Some studies on green and loggerhead have been conducted by SQU.

**3.1.4 Which of the following methods have been or are being used to try to identify migration routes of turtles? Use the text boxes to provide additional details. [INF, PRI]**

**Tagging**  YES  NO

Long term monitoring program on Hawksbill, loggerhead, Green and olive ridley by flipper tagging program started in 1977.

**Satellite tracking**  YES  NO

Satellite tracking projects:

\* Oman 2006:Loggerhead Turtles of Masirah: in 2005 a three year project to assess and evaluate sea turtle populations in Masirah Island as well as establish a sustainable, general management plan for the Island and the surrounding areas (Barr al Hikman and the Islands in the Masirah Channel) was initiated. One of the focal activities in 2006 is to track 10 nesting females to their possibly remote foraging areas as many years of flipper tagging have so far revealed very little of their migratory behaviour. A second project with a further 10 transmitters will be undertaken in August by the Environment Society of Oman. combining the information will strengthen the findings for appropriate conservation measures.

\*Oman 2008:Olive Ridley turtles of Masirah:Olive ridley migration and behaviour are, in general, poorly studied and hence this project will provide vital information, not only for this population but for this species as a whole. Later, in the summer of 2008, a green turtle telemetry project will take place at Masirah providing evidence of migration routes and raising awareness of this threatened and depleted population.

\*Post-Nesting Migrations of Green Turtles from Ras al Hadd Turtle Reserve, Sultanate of Oman.This satellite tracking study to determine post and inter-nesting movements of the green turtles nesting at Ras al Jinz nesting beach.

\*Post-Nesting Migrations of Hawksbill Turtles from the Daymaniyat Islands, Oman. This tracking project will further our understanding of the migratory patterns of turtles nesting on the Daymaniyat's.

\*Post-Nesting Migrations of Loggerhead Turtles From Masirah Island, Oman. This satellite telemetry project is being

implemented to assist in determining the migration paths of post-nesting loggerhead turtles and to raise awareness of the importance of marine turtle populations and the international efforts needed for their wise conservation. The project is one component of a larger and more complex conservation strategy undertaken by the Omani government, which includes training and capacity-building, strategic conservation planning, streamlining of survey methodology and data analysis, and addressing threats to sea turtles such as artificial lighting.

Other

None of the above

**3.1.5 Have studies been carried out on marine turtle population dynamics and survival rates (e.g. including studies into the survival rates of incidentally caught and released turtles)?** [INF, PRI]

YES  NO  UNSURE

Only in eggs and hatchlings, but there are some data have been gathered previously through monitoring programmes for returned, lost and dead turtles and also for measuring length and width of turtles.

**3.1.6 Has research been conducted on the frequency and pathology of diseases in marine turtles?** [INF, PRI]

YES  NO  UNSURE

Only ectoparasites and toxicology (metals in organs)

**3.1.7 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research studies being promoted?** [BPR, PRI]

YES  NO  UNSURE

Individuals from local communities are employed and trained as rangers in order to keep them involved. Their knowledge and expertise are used to monitor the turtle nests, tracks and to conduct tagging.

**3.2.1 List any regional or sub-regional action plans in which your country is already participating, which may serve the purpose of identifying priority research and monitoring needs.** [INF]

None

**3.2.2 On which of the following themes have collaborative studies and monitoring been conducted? Use the text boxes to describe the nature of this international collaboration or to clarify your response. Answer 'NO' if the studies/monitoring undertaken do not involve international collaboration.** [INF, PRI]

a) Genetic Identity  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

b) Conservation status  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

c) Migrations  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

d) Other biological and ecological aspects  YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Other

3.3.1 List, in order of priority, the marine turtle populations in your country in need of conservation actions, and indicate their population trends. [\[PRI\]](#)

3.3.2 Are research and monitoring activities, such as those described above in Section 3.1 periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? [\[SAP\]](#)

YES  NO  UNSURE

Certain research were applied by making certain protection area of turtles in Oman: Ras AL Hadd and Dymaniyat Island.

3.3.3 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats (in relation to the priority populations identified in 3.3.1, among others). [\[SAP\]](#)

3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other Range States) to standardise methods and levels of data collection? [\[BPR, INF\]](#)

YES  NO  UNSURE

3.4.2 To what extent does your country exchange scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States? [\[SAP, IND\]](#)

OFTEN (SYSTEMATICALLY)  OCCASIONALLY  RARELY  NEVER

3.4.3 If your country shares scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States, what mechanisms have commonly been used for this purpose? Comment on any positive benefits/outcomes achieved through these interactions. [\[INF\]](#)

3.4.4 Does your country compile and make available to other countries data on marine turtle populations of a regional interest? [\[INF\]](#)

YES  NO  UNSURE

Through the Environment Society of Oman.

#### **OBJECTIVE IV. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES**

4.1.1 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated. [\[INF, PRI\]](#)

- Posters, booklets and brochures
- TV and radio programmes, signs and boards on beaches, as well as the distribution of educational materials in coastal areas.
- Seminar , lectures for school and local peoples and tourisms.

**4.1.2 Which of the following groups have been the targets of these focused education and awareness programmes described in above in Section 4.1.1? [PRI, INF]**

- Policy makers
- Fishing industry
- Local/Fishing communities**
- Indigenous groups
- Tourists**
- Media**
- Teachers
- Students**
- Military, Navy, Police
- Scientists**
- Other:
- None of the above

**4.1.3 Have any community learning / information centres been established in your country? [BPR, SAP]**

**YES**  **NO**

An environmental center in Ras al Hadd has been opened in 2010. in addition, a small environmental visiting centre in Massirah Island is opened. it is a full time job.

**4.2 Alternative livelihood opportunities [IND, BPR] Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income-generating activities) for local communities.**

Promoting ecotourism, establishing rangers units from local communities.

**4.3.1 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned by your country to involve local communities, in particular, in the planning and implementation of marine turtle conservation programmes. Please include details of any incentives that have been used to encourage public participation, and indicate their efficacy. [BPR, IND]**

Communities are not so much involved in planning and implementation of marine turtles conservation.

**4.3.2 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes. [IND, BPR]**

Co-operation with WWF (1970s), IUCN (1990s), Sultan Qaboos University, Oman (2000s), and informal cooperation with projects from The University of Algarve, Portugal (1999-2003).

**OBJECTIVE V. ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**5.1.1 Has your country undertaken a national review of its compliance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) obligations in relation to marine turtles? [SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Oman has no reported international trade in sea turtles or products therefrom.

**5.1.2 Does your country have, or participate/cooperate in, CITES training programmes for relevant authorities? [SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

**5.1.3 Does your country have in place mechanisms to identify **international** illegal trade routes (for marine turtle products etc.)? Please use the text box to elaborate on how your country is cooperating with other States to prevent/deter/eliminate illegal trade. [SAP]**

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

Oman applies CITES procedures to all imports and exports of wildlife as of Feb. 2008, when Oman became a signatory to the CITES convention.

**5.1.4 Which international compliance and trade issues related to marine turtles has your country raised for discussion (e.g. through the IOSEA MoU Secretariat, at meetings of Signatory States etc.)? [INF]**

None

**5.1.5 Describe measures in place to prevent, deter and eliminate **domestic** illegal trade in marine turtle products, particularly with a view to enforcing the legislation identified in Section 1.5.1. [INF]**

Turtle products are not traded at all.

**5.2.1 Has your country already developed a national **action plan** or a set of **key management measures** that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national level? [IND]**

YES  NO

We have management plans for all protected areas.

**5.2.2 From your country's perspective, which **conservation and management activities**, and/or which particular **sites or locations**, ought to be among the highest priorities for action? [PRI]**

- 1) 1.1a Collate and organise existing data on threats to marine turtle populations
- 2) 1.6a Evaluate the effectiveness of nest and beach management programmes
- 3) 5.4a Identify needs for capacity-building in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities
- 4) 5.2a Develop a set of key management measures that could be used as a basis for action plans, through consultation with concerned Government authorities, research institutions, NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders
- 5) 5.4b Provide training (e.g. through workshops) in marine turtle conservation and management techniques to relevant agencies, individuals and local communities
- 6) 1.3b Identify desired modifications to the economic incentives in order to reduce threats and mortality, and develop programmes to implement the modifications
- 7) 1.3c Identify resources and sources of funding for the programmes
- 8) 3.2b Conduct collaborative studies and monitoring on genetic identity, conservation status, migrations, and other biological and ecological aspects of marine turtles
- 9) 1.3a Conduct socio-economic studies among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- 10) 2.1c Develop incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas

5.2.3 Please indicate, from your country's standpoint, the extent to which the following local management issues require international cooperation in order to to achieve progress. [PRI]

Illegal fishing in territorial waters	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Incidental capture by foreign fleets	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Hunting/harvest by neighboring countries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Poaching, illegal trade in turtle projects	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Development of gear technology	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Oil spills, pollution, marine debris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Training / capacity-building	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Alternative livelihood development	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Identification of turtle populations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Identification of migration routes	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Tagging / satellite tracking	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Habitat studies	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Genetics studies	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL

5.3.1 Identify existing frameworks/organisations that are, or could be, useful mechanisms for cooperating in marine turtle conservation at the sub-regional level. Please comment on the strengths of these instruments, their capacity to take on a broader coordinating role, and any efforts your country has made to enhance their role in turtle conservation. [INF, BPR]

The Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The Government of Oman works closely with ROPME but not yet on sea turtle conservation.

5.3.2 Has your country developed, or is it participating in, any networks for cooperative management of shared turtle populations? [BPR, INF]

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE

5.3.3 What steps has your country taken to encourage Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? [SAP]

The information is not yet available.

5.4.1 Describe your country's needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures. [PRI]

**5.4.2 Describe any training provided in marine turtle conservation and management techniques (e.g. workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year. [PRI, INF]**

Training on nesting and monitoring are conducted for rangers.

**5.4.3 Specifically in relation to [capacity-building](#), describe any partnerships developed or planned with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations. [BPR]**

Programes of studying on sea turtles in college of science, Sultan Qaboos University. Cooperation with local and international academic institutions. Scientific centre were build in protected area for education.

**5.5.1 National policies and laws concerning the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats will have been described in Section 1.5.1. Please indicate their effectiveness, in terms of their practical application and enforcement. [SAP, TSH]**

**5.5.2 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any gaps, inconsistencies or impediments in relation to marine turtle conservation? If not, indicate any obstacles encountered in this regard and when this review is expected to be done. [SAP]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

**5.5.3 From the standpoint of law enforcement, has your country experienced any difficulties achieving cooperation to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions? [TSH]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

There is a general problem regarding enforcement of environmental law in local communities in some areas.

## **OBJECTIVE VI. PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MoU INCLUDING THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**6.1.1 What has your country already done, or will it do, to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MoU? [INF]**

No action has been done or taken to encourage other states to sign the IOSEA.

**6.1.2 Is your country [currently](#) favourable, in principle, to amending the MoU to make it a legally binding instrument? [INF]**

YES  NO  NO VIEW

**6.1.3 Would your country be favourable, over a [longer time horizon](#), to amending the MoU to make it a legally-binding instrument? [INF]**

YES  NO  NO VIEW

### **6.2 Secretariat and Advisory Committee**

**6.2.1 What efforts has your country made, or can it make, to secure funding to support the core operations of the IOSEA MoU (Secretariat and Advisory Committee, and related activities)? [IND]**

**6.3.1 What funding has your country mobilised for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU? Where possible, indicate the specific monetary values attached to these activities/programmes, as well as future plans. [IND]**

Not available.

**6.3.2 Has your country tried to solicit funds from, or seek partnerships with, other Governments, major donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations or NGOs for marine turtle conservation activities? [IND]**

YES  NO

**6.3.3 Describe any initiatives made to explore the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. [BPR]**

- Ecotourism revenues at Ras Al Hadd.
- Guided turtle-watch at Ras Al Hadd.

**6.4.1 Has your country designated a lead agency responsible for coordinating national marine turtle conservation and management policy? If not, when is this information expected to be communicated to the IOSEA MoU Secretariat? [IND]**

YES  NO

Directorate General of Nature Conservation.

**6.4.2 Are the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies related to the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats clearly defined? [IND]**

YES  NO  UNSURE

**6.4.3 Has your country ever conducted a review of agency roles and responsibilities? If so, when, and what was the general outcome? If not, is such a review planned and when? [SAP],**

YES  NO  UNSURE

**Comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format:**

**Additional information not covered above:**